

# FOOD PURCHASE REPORT

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Agricultural  
Marketing  
Service

DATE: June 17, 2002

## USDA CHICKEN NUGGETS AND CHICKEN PATTIES PURCHASE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) today announced plans to purchase chicken nuggets and chicken patties for school lunch and other domestic food nutrition assistance programs. Offers will be invited from the trade for chicken nuggets and chicken patties in one or more of the following forms:

Chicken Nuggets (222330) – Frozen cooked breaded chicken nuggets, produced from ready-to-cook chicken and chicken products (parts), or boneless parts, meat, and skin. Chicken nuggets will be packaged 5 or 10 pounds (2.27 or 4.54 kg) per plastic-film bag to a net weight of 30 pounds (13.61 kg) in each fiberboard shipping container. A purchase unit will consist of 1,300 shipping containers totaling 39,000 pounds (17,690 kg).

Chicken Patties (223030) – Frozen cooked breaded chicken patties, produced from ready-to-cook chicken and chicken products (parts), or boneless parts, meat, and skin. Chicken patties will be packaged 5 or 10 pounds (2.27 or 4.54 kg) per plastic-film bag to a net weight of 30 pounds (13.61 kg) in each fiberboard shipping container. A purchase unit will consist of 1,300 shipping containers totaling 39,000 pounds (17,690 kg).

Invitation No. 1, inviting offers due by 12 noon, Central Time, Monday, July 8, is being issued this week. Acceptances will be announced by midnight Friday, July 12. Deliveries will be made in accordance with the notice-to-deliver. Additional purchases may be necessary to meet recipient demand.

There is an important change to this year's program. Poultry Programs is incorporating "USDA reduced labeling" requirements for shipping containers and providing the option of using commercial labeling for packages and shipping containers. If using commercial labeling, the manufacturer must use a traceability and coding system that traces product back to the specific USDA contract and destination in the event of a recall. As with last year's program, certifications, representations, and warranties will be made annually and are contained in Appendix-1. The certifications will be made one time only for all Poultry Program Announcements for the program year. Certifications must be received by the Contracting Officer prior to submitting a bid. Information regarding these requirements is contained in Announcement PY-263, which is being distributed to the trade.

Offerors are urged to review the bid format and product specifications and are cautioned to offer only quantities they can reasonably expect to produce and deliver during the contracted delivery period.

Although most other provisions of the program are similar to the program operated last year, offerors are urged to carefully read all applicable terms and conditions of USDA-1, as amended, Announcement PY-263, Appendix-1, the Commodity Specification for Chicken Nuggets and Chicken Patties dated June 2002, and Invitation No. 1.

Inquiries may be made by telephoning (202) 720-7693 or addressing the Contracting Officer, USDA/AMS/Poultry Programs, Commodity Procurement Branch STOP 0260, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250. An electronic version of this Food Purchase Report can be obtained through the world wide web via the Commodity Procurement Home Page at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/cp> .

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